Look Out Above
GP-D026
SATB, a cappella

Dessa & Jocelyn Hagen

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Dessa & Jocelyn Hagen

Look Out Above

for a cappella SATB choir, soloists, body percussion, opt. movement

Commissioned by & dedicated to the Macalester College Choirs
with special thanks to Dr. Michael McGaghie, conductor

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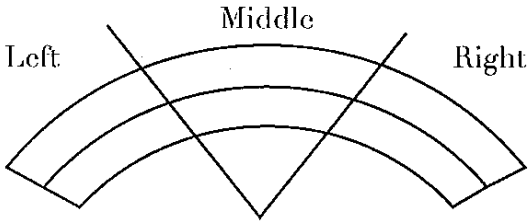
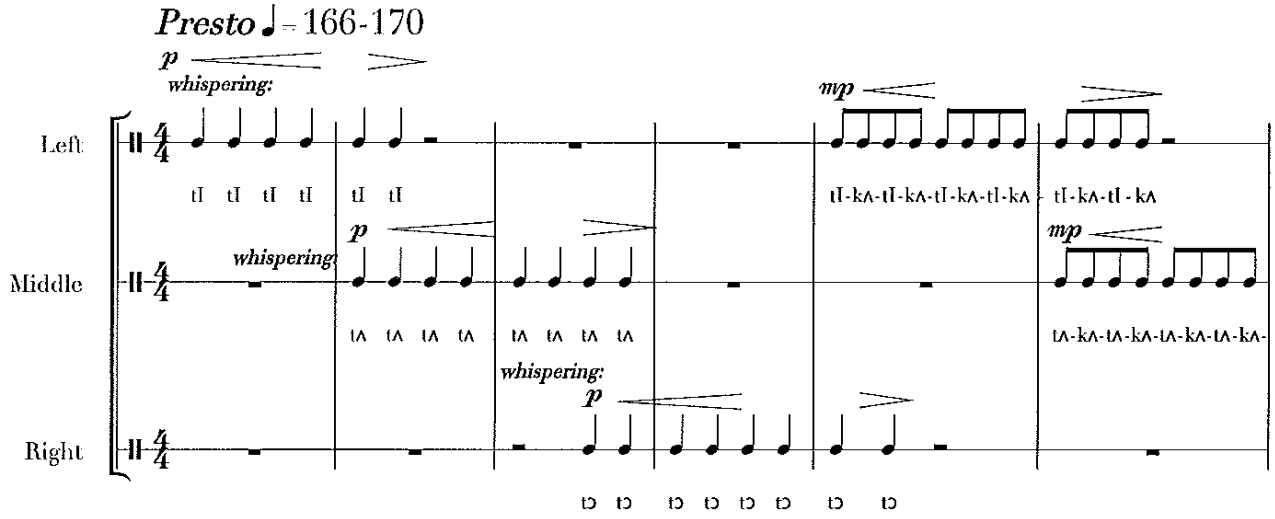
for SATB a cappella choir, soloists, body percussion & optional movement

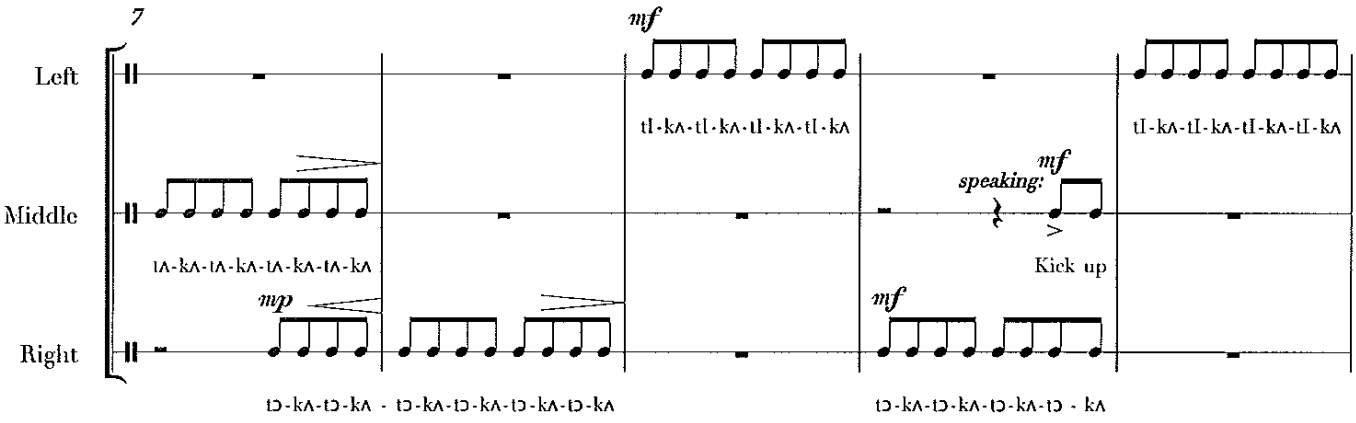
Text by: Dessa

Dessa & Jocelyn Hagen
with help from the Macalester College Choir Students



INSTRUCTIONS: Resembling a clock, conductor sweeps left arm from left to right, like the arm of a clock. Choir members create their ticking sound loudest when the arm is directly pointed at them. There should be gradual overlap between sections.





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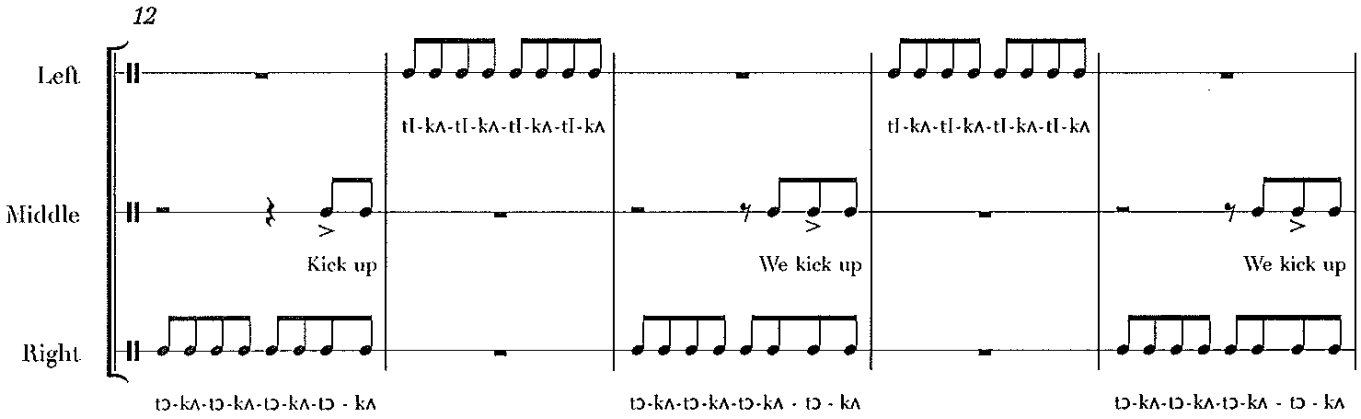
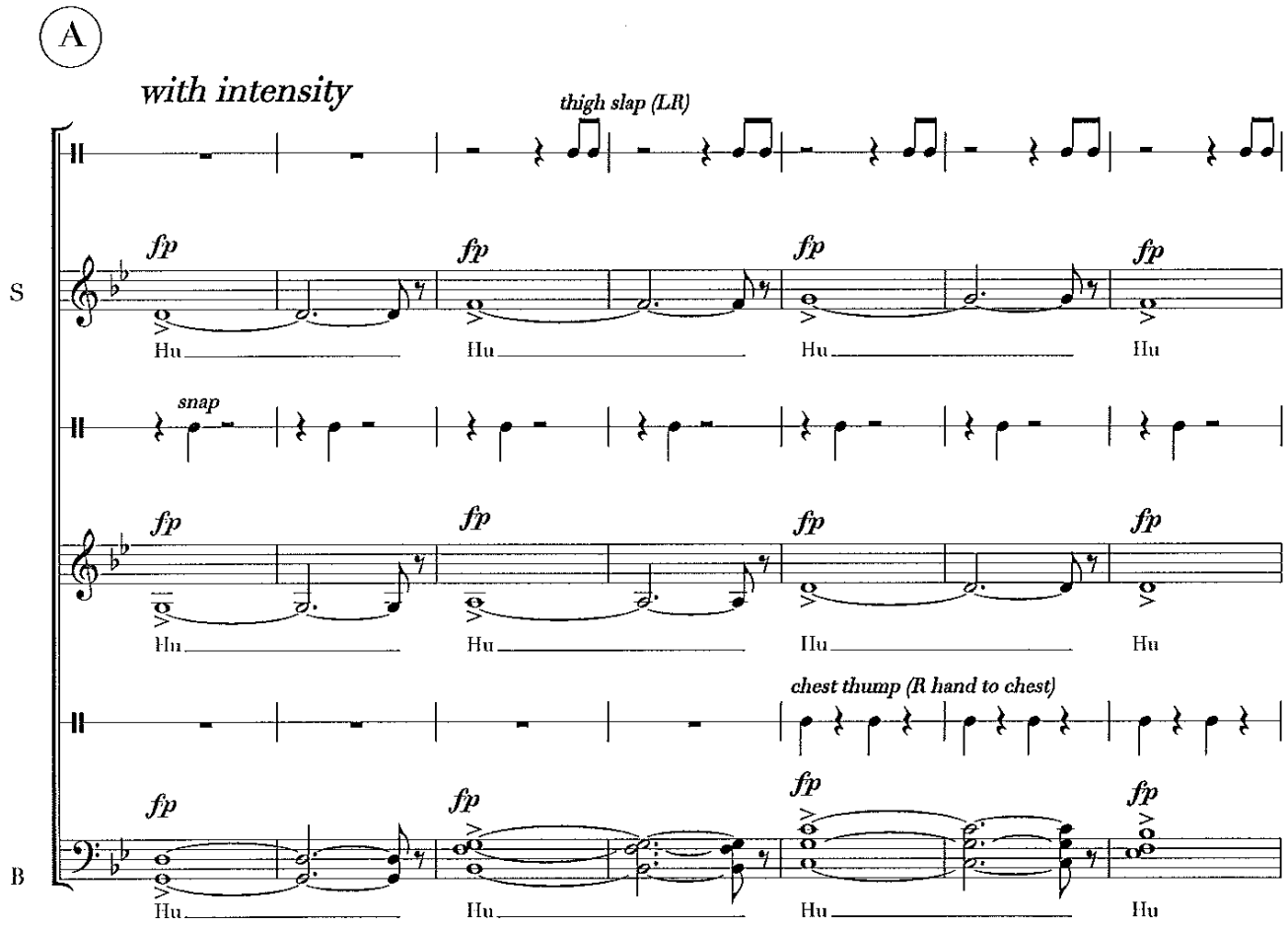
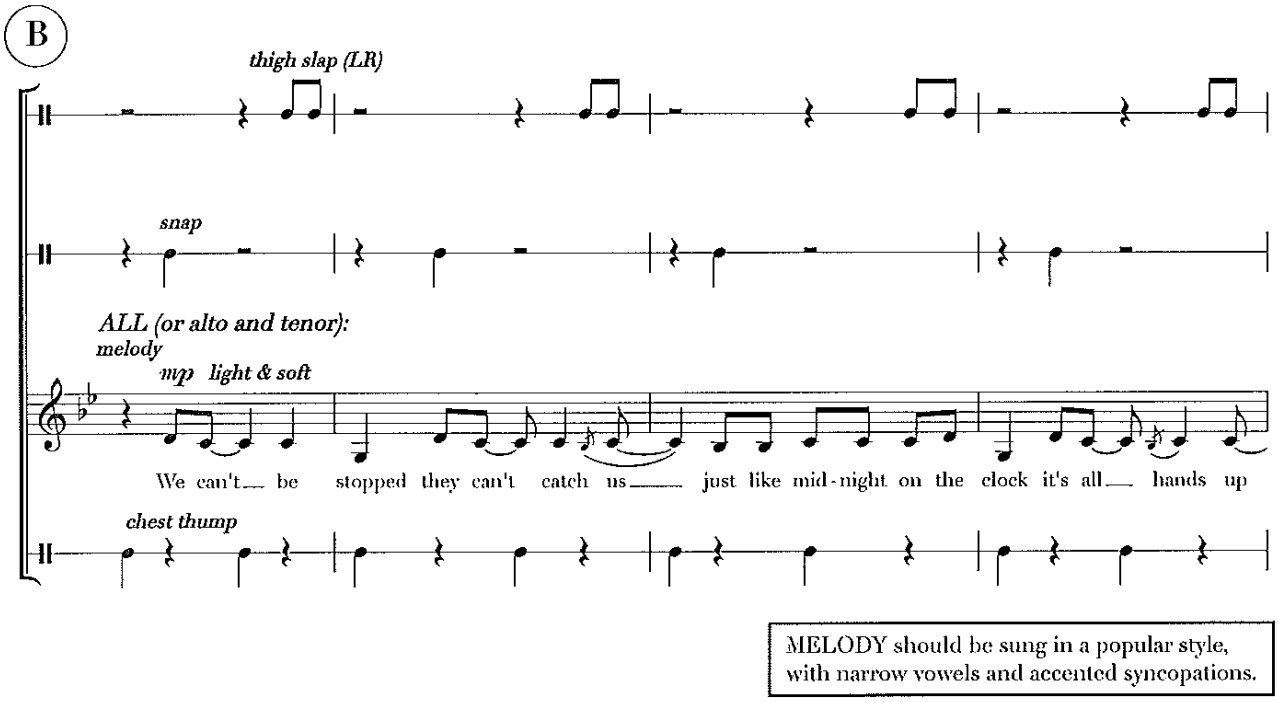
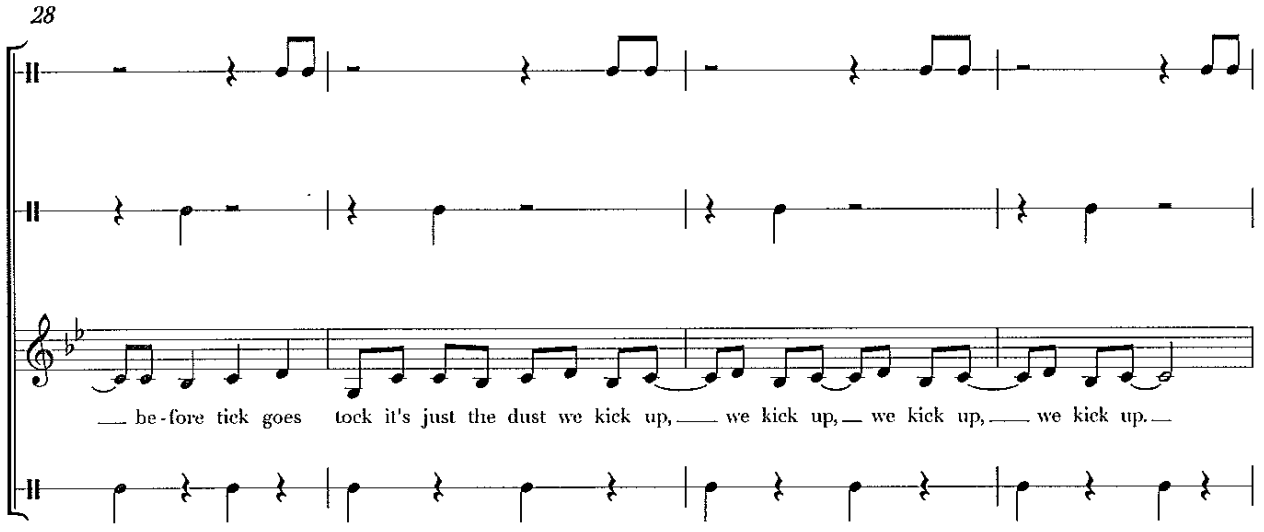
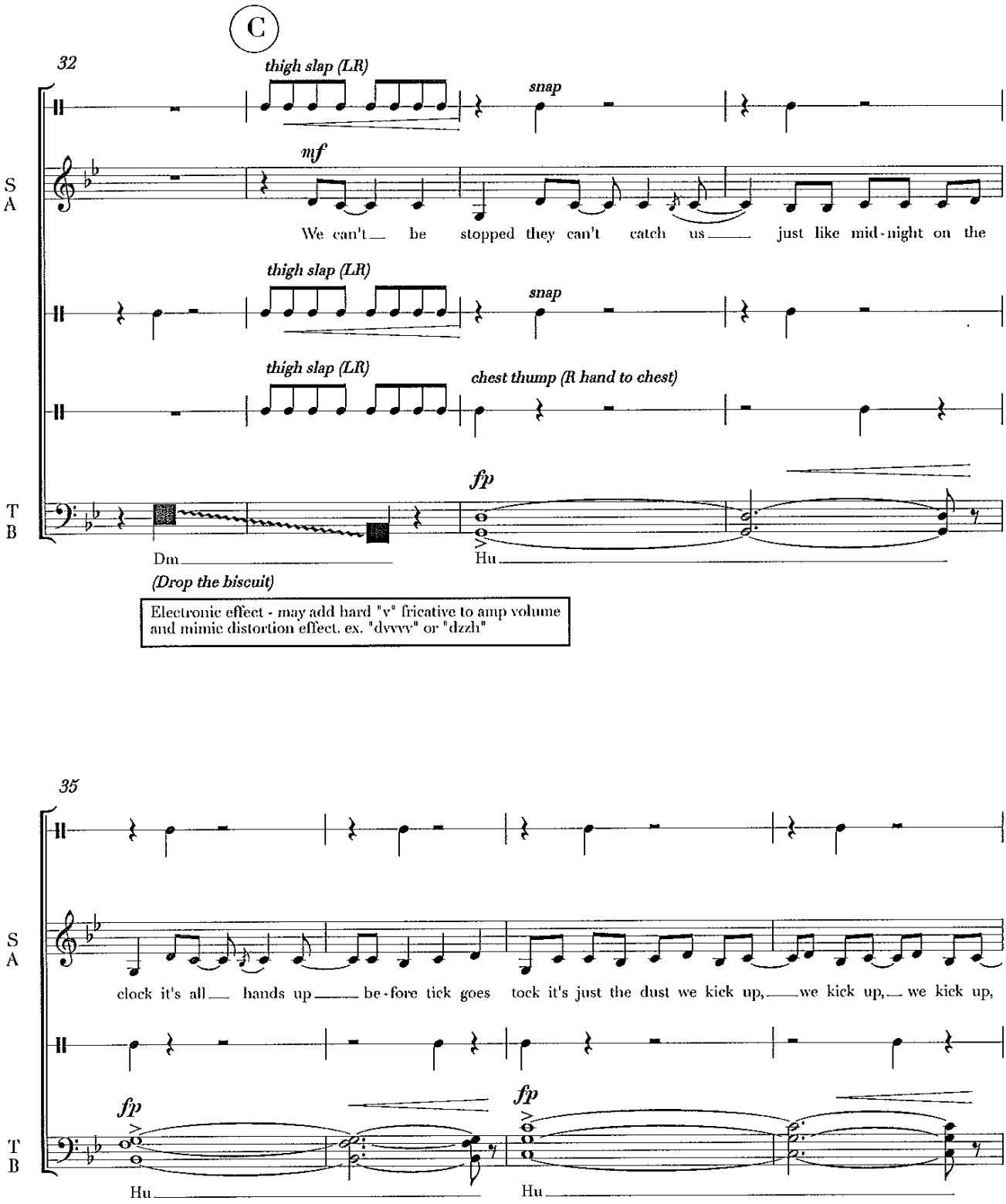

12
Left
Middle
Right
tI-kʌ-tI-kʌ-tI-kʌ-tI-kʌ
tI-kʌ-tI-kʌ-tI-kʌ-tI-kʌ
Kick up
We kick up
We kick up
tɔ-kʌ-tɔ-kʌ-tɔ-kʌ-tɔ - kʌ
tɔ-kʌ-tɔ-kʌ-tɔ-kʌ - tɔ - kʌ
tɔ-kʌ-tɔ-kʌ-tɔ-kʌ - tɔ - kʌ

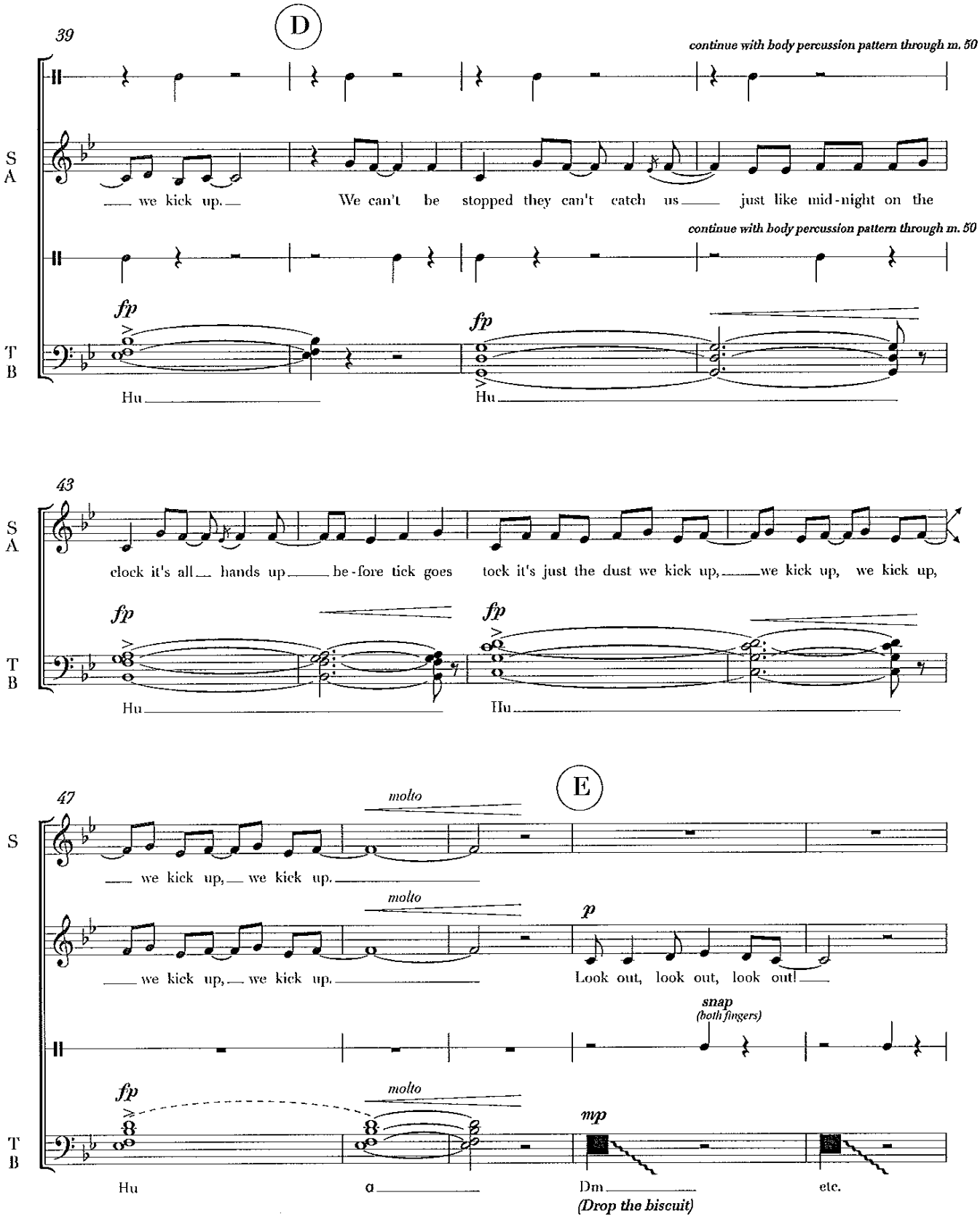
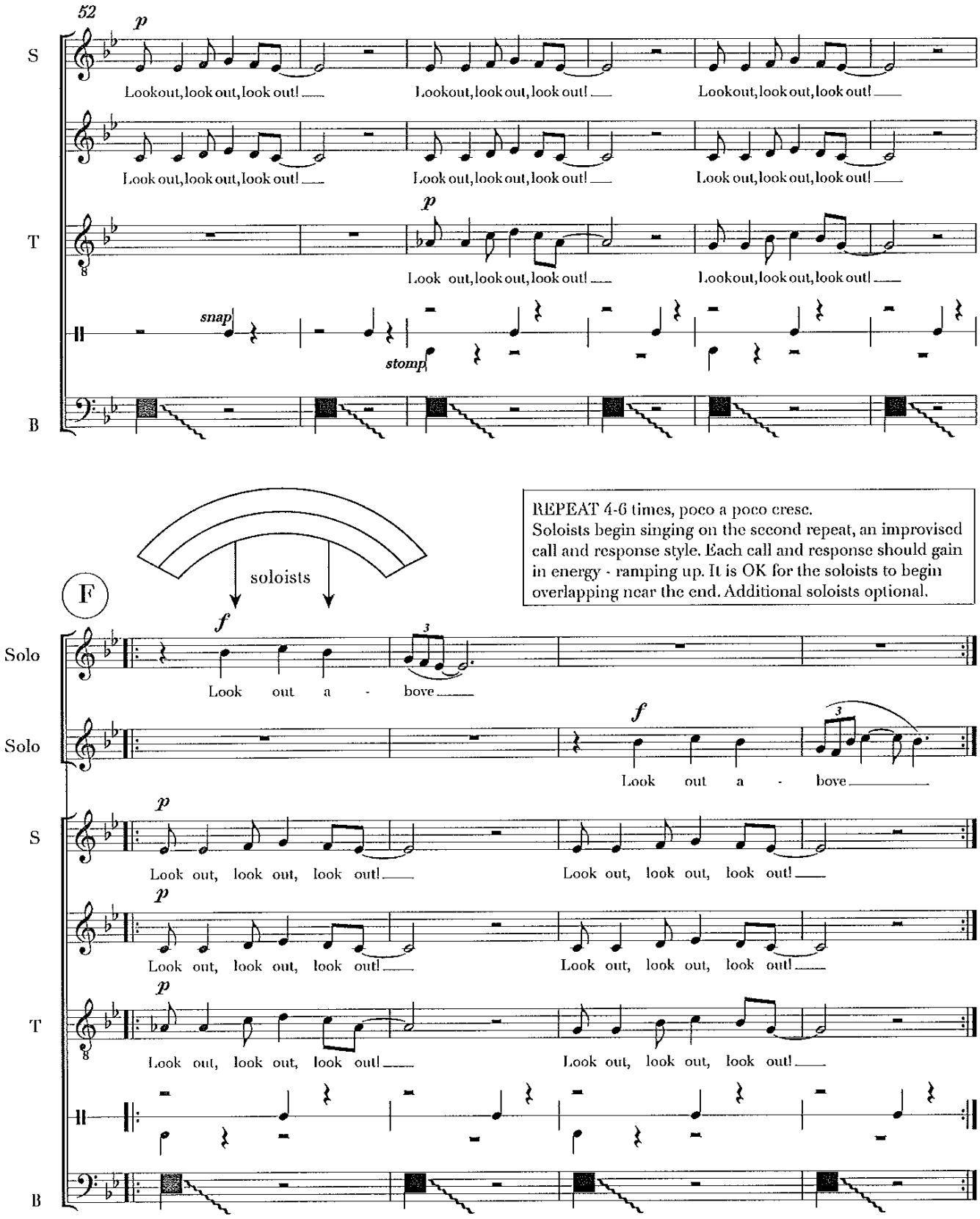

A
with intensity
thigh slap (LR)
S
fp
Hu
snap
chest thump (R hand to chest)
B

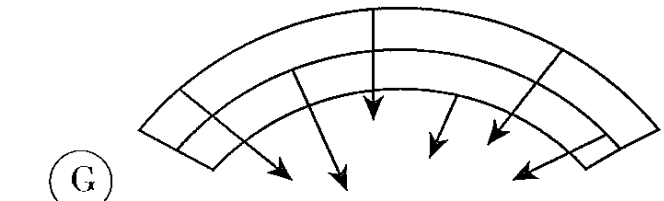

B
thigh slap (LR)
snap
ALL (or alto and tenor):
melody
mp light & soft
We can't be stopped they can't catch us just like mid-night on the clock it's all hands up
chest thumb

MELODY should be sung in a popular style, with narrow vowels and accented syncopations.



C
32
thigh slap (LR)
snap
mf
S
A
We can't be stopped they can't catch us just like mid-night on the
thigh slap (LR)
snap
thigh slap (LR)
chest thump (R hand to chest)
fp
T
B
Dm
Hu
(Drop the biscuit)
Electronic effect - may add hard "v" fricative to amp volume and mimic distortion effect. ex. "dvvvv" or "dzzh"
35
S
A
clock it's all hands up be-fore tick goes tock it's just the dust we kick up, we kick up, we kick up,
fp
fp
T
B
Hu
Hu


39
D
continue with body percussion pattern through m. 50
S
A
we kick up. We can't be stopped they can't catch us just like mid-night on the
continue with body percussion pattern through m. 50
fp
fp
T
B
Hu
Hu
43
S
A
clock it's all hands up be-fore tick goes tock it's just the dust we kick up, we kick up, we kick up,
fp
fp
T
B
Hu
Hu
47
E
molto
S
we kick up, we kick up.
molto
p
we kick up, we kick up.
Look out, look out, look out!
snap
(both fingers)
fp
molto
mp
T
B
Hu
a
Dm
etc.
(Drop the biscuit)

52
p
S
Lookout, look out, look out!
Look out, look out, look out!
T
Look out, look out, look out!
snap
stomp
B
soloists
REPEAT 4-6 times, poco a poco cresc.
Soloists begin singing on the second repeat, an improvised call and response style. Each call and response should gain in energy - ramping up. It is OK for the soloists to begin overlapping near the end. Additional soloists optional.
F
f
Solo
Look out a - bove
Solo
S
Look out, look out, look out!
T
B



Sopranos join soloists in front of choir.

G

S

T

B

pp mp mf f

u u u u Look out a - bove (h)

pp mp mf

u u o

pp mp mf

u u o

pp mp mf

u u o

72

H

S

ff sub. mp

Look out a - bove There's no stop-ping us.

p

tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ

f ff

a

T

f ff sub. mp

a There's no stop-ping us.

B

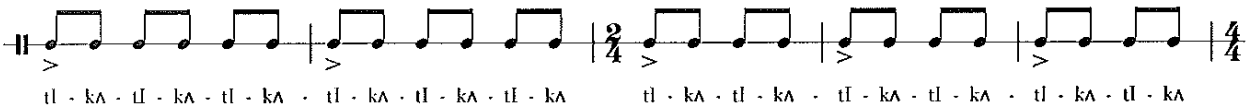
f mp

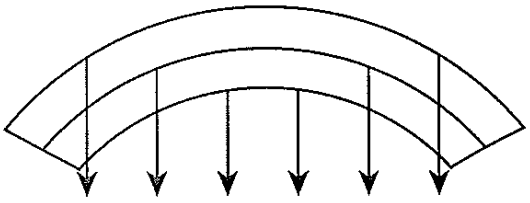
Dm...

(Drop the biscuit)

ALL:

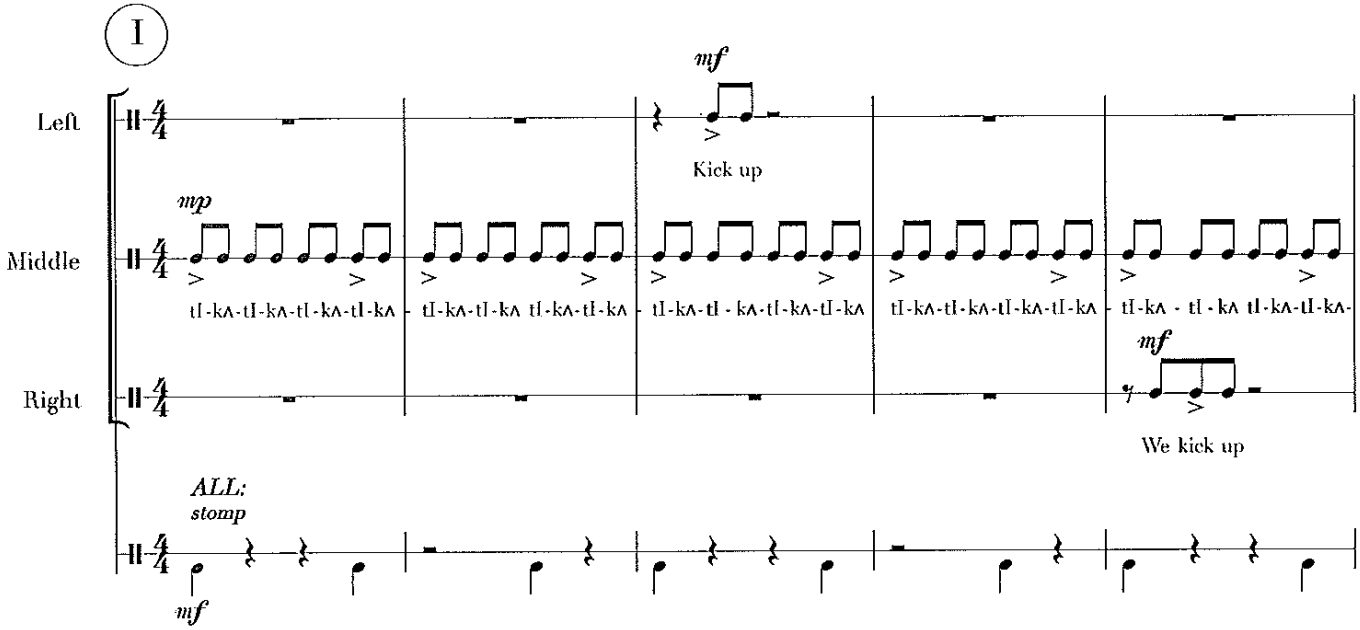
78





STOMPS are steps forward into tight cluster.

I



88

Left

Middle

Right

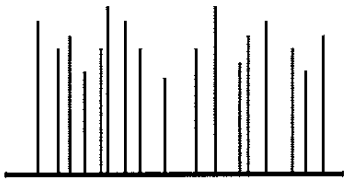
Kick up Kick up Look out a - bove

tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ

Kick up Kick up

thigh slap (both hands)

stomp



audience view

CLUSTER POSE: singers pose in various height levels (standing, crouching, etc.) Singers should reach their pose right at Letter J.

92

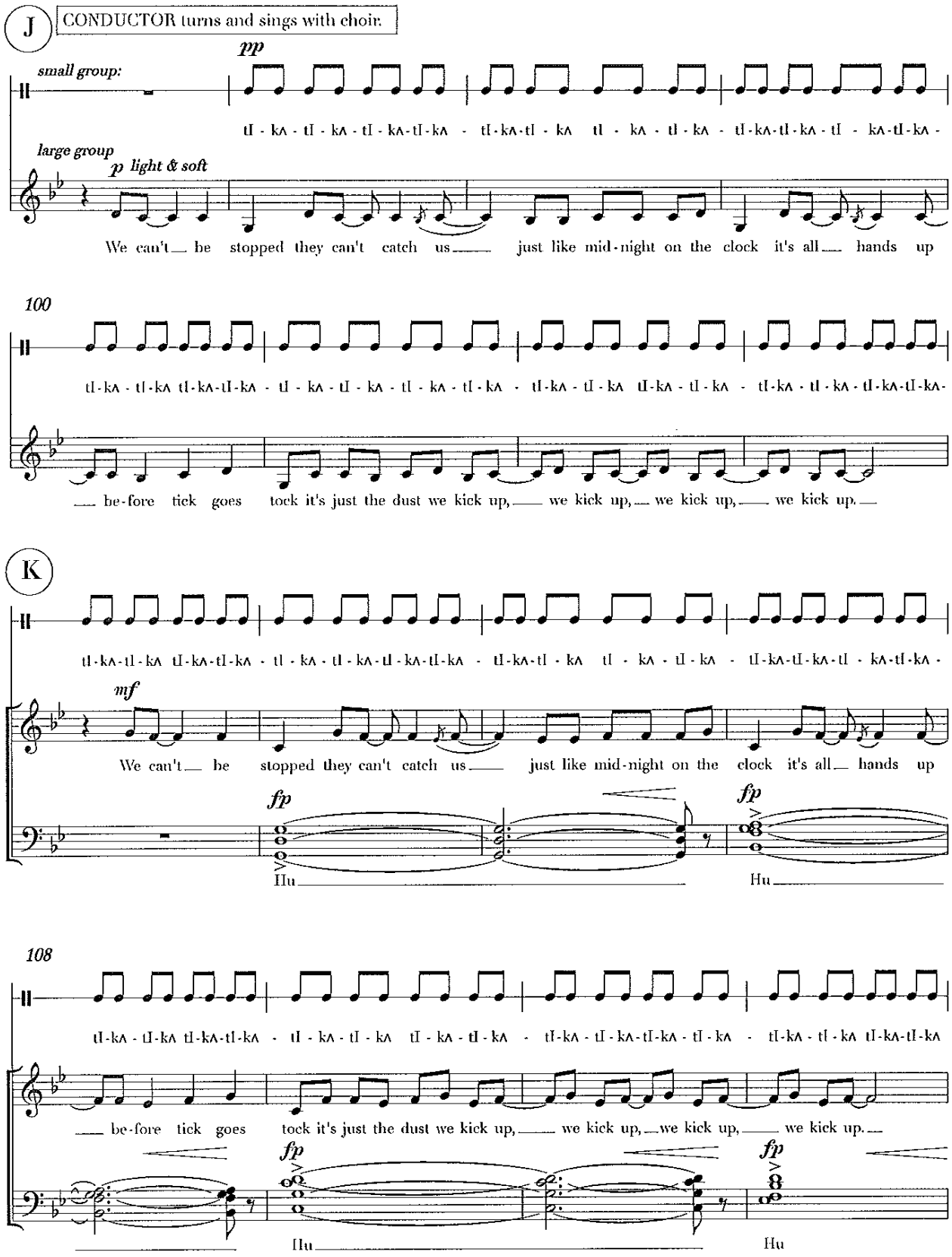
Left

Middle

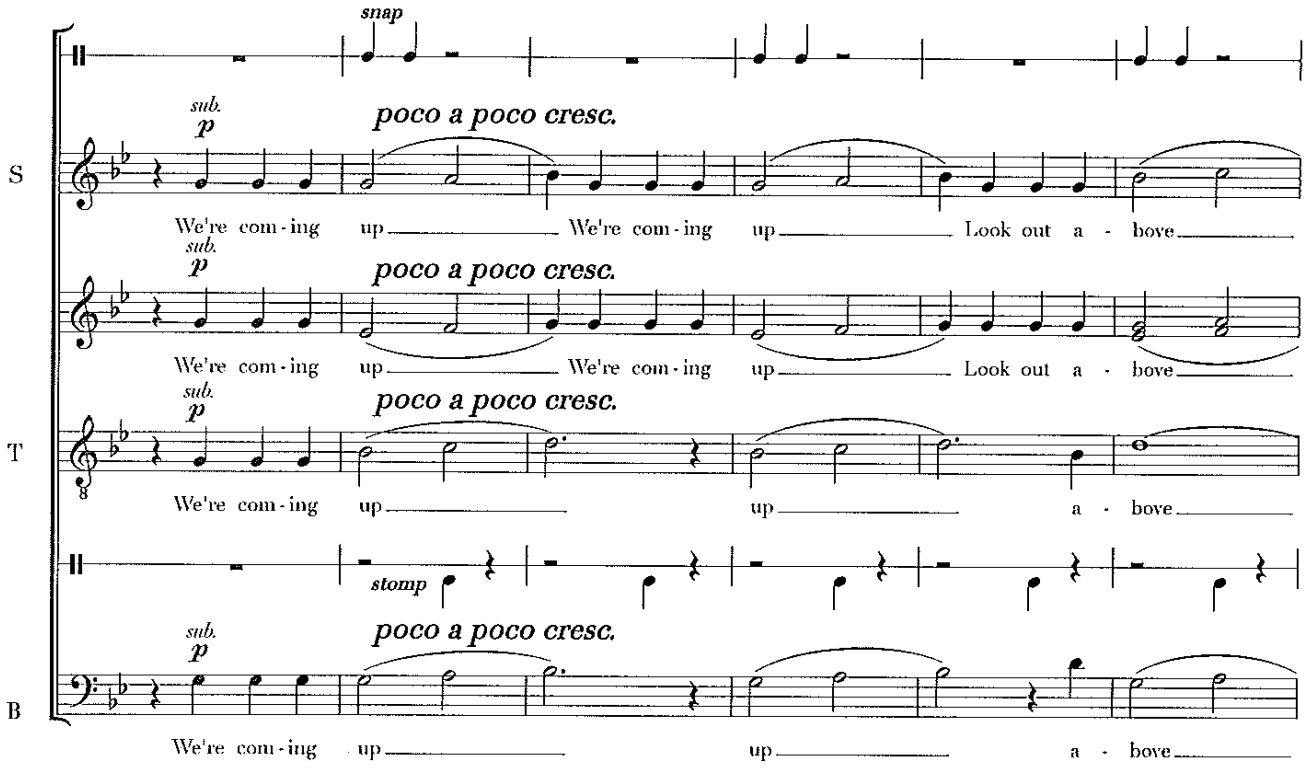
Right

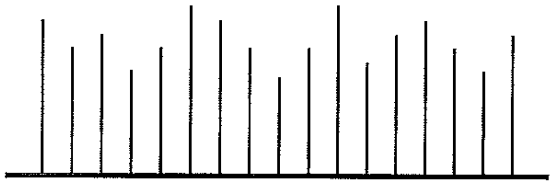
Look out a - bove Look out a - bove

tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ Look out a - bove

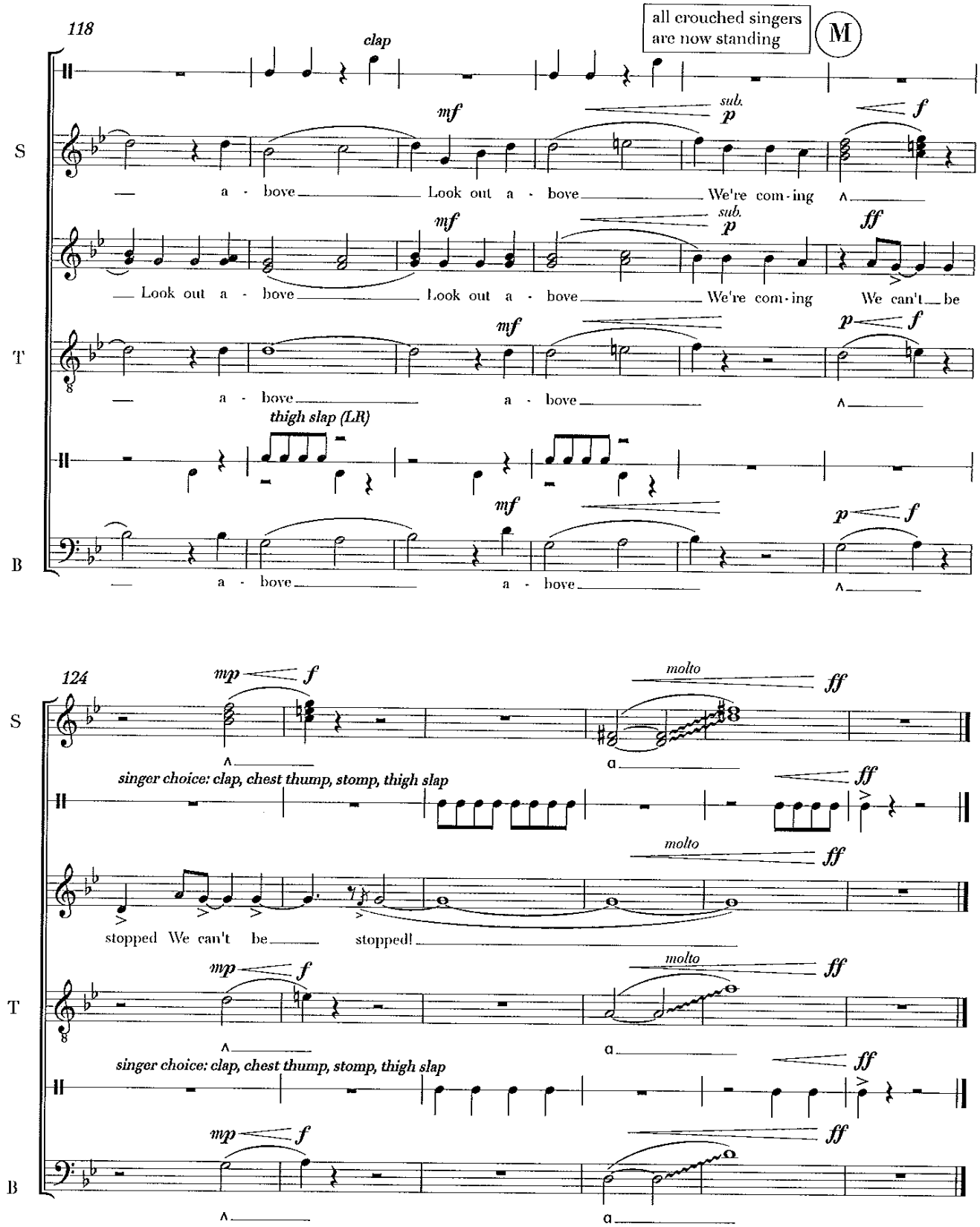
We can't be stopped We can't be stopped Look out a - bove

J
CONDUCTOR turns and sings with choir.
pp
small group:
tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ-tI-kʌ - tI-kʌ-tI - kʌ tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI-kʌ-tI-kʌ - tI - kʌ-tI-kʌ -
large group
p light & soft
We can't be stopped they can't catch us just like mid-night on the clock it's all hands up
100
tI-kʌ - tI-kʌ tI-kʌ-tI-kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI-kʌ - tI-kʌ - tI-kʌ tI-kʌ - tI-kʌ - tI-kʌ - tI-kʌ - tI-kʌ-tI-kʌ-
be-fore tick goes tock it's just the dust we kick up, we kick up, we kick up, we kick up.
K
tI-kʌ-tI-kʌ tI-kʌ-tI-kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI-kʌ-tI-kʌ - tI-kʌ-tI - kʌ tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI-kʌ-tI-kʌ - tI - kʌ-tI-kʌ -
mf
S
A
We can't be stopped they can't catch us just like mid-night on the clock it's all hands up
fp
fp
T
B
Hu
Hu
108
tI-kʌ - tI-kʌ tI-kʌ-tI-kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ tI - kʌ - tI - kʌ - tI-kʌ - tI - kʌ-tI-kʌ-tI-kʌ - tI-kʌ - tI - kʌ tI-kʌ-tI-kʌ
S
A
be-fore tick goes tock it's just the dust we kick up, we kick up, we kick up, we kick up.
fp
fp
T
B
Hu
Hu

(L) CONDUCTOR turns back around.


snap
sub. p
poco a poco cresc.
S
We're com - ing up We're com - ing up Look out a - bove
sub. p
poco a poco cresc.
We're com - ing up We're com - ing up Look out a - bove
sub. p
poco a poco cresc.
T
We're com - ing up up a - bove
stomp
sub. p
poco a poco cresc.
B
We're com - ing up up a - bove



audience view

LAST FORMATION: Singers slowly spread out and face the audience in strong stance.

118
clap
all crouched singers are now standing
M
S
mf
sub. p
f
— a - bove Look out a - bove We're com-ing
mf
sub. p
ff
Look out a - bove Look out a - bove We're com-ing We can't be
T
mf
p f
— a - bove a - bove
thigh slap (LR)
B
mf
p f
— a - bove a - bove
124
mp f
molto ff
singer choice: clap, chest thump, stomp, thigh slap
ff
molto ff
stopped We can't be stopped!
mp f
molto ff
singer choice: clap, chest thump, stomp, thigh slap
ff
mp f
ff

Text:

We can't be stopped
they can't catch us
just like midnight on the clock:
it's all hands up--
before tick goes toc,
it's just the dust we kick up, so
look out, look out, look out
look out above
cause we're coming up
look about above
there's no stopping us
We can't be stopped....

- Dessa

IPA Guide:

[ɑ] - c<u>a</u>r
[ɪ] - s<u>i</u>tting
[ʌ] - c<u>u</u>p, l<u>u</u>ck
[ɔ] - c<u>a</u>ll, s<u>a</u>w
[o] - b<u>oa</u>t
[u] - wh<u>o</u>

From the Composers:

Some vocal works ask to be delivered by a perfect blend of voices: a finely tuned, powerful, unified sound. This isn't one of those pieces. Nail the timing and the pitch, but I wouldn't labor over every vowel sound--better to feel the music in your body than to look from side to side to make sure you're in musical consensus with your neighbors. The natural friction between different voices is part of what gives pop music style; it's that X-factor that tells us when a singer really means it. Don't strive to be a choir of angels on this one. Be a room full of humans.

- Dessa (2018)

To the Conductor:

Congratulations on your decision to program "Look Out Above" with your choir. You are officially an adventurous conductor, committed to learning and exploring a work that requires movement, improvisation, bravery, and fierce commitment.

I was lucky to workshop this piece throughout its creation with Dr. Michael McGaghie and the choir students at Macalester College in St. Paul. I tried out a bunch of new and sometimes unorthodox ideas with them. Some of them worked beautifully, while others did not. It was an incredible journey.

You are about to go on an incredible journey with your choir. Within this score you will find a basic set of instructions for its performance, but I am asking you to go beyond what's written on the page. Try out your own ideas ~ improvise ~ listen to your students and allow their creativity to seep into your performance. I want to see "Look Out Above" take on the individual character of the choir that is performing it. You want to hold something a little longer? Great. You want to add more repeats? Yep. More solos? Sure! A rap? Cool. Make this piece your own. Help it live outside these pages!

Then please share it with me. I want to see your process, your performance, and anything in between. I want to cheer you on. You got this!

Twitter & Instagram: @JocelynHagenMus
Facebook: Jocelyn Hagen (composer)
jocelyn@jocelynhagen.com
www.jocelynhagen.com

To the Singers:

Dessa has written you an incredible text and an incredible hook. I hope it speaks to you. You are the next generation, and you have the ability to invent a life for yourself that you love and make the world a better place. You can't be stopped. Live the life you dream.

- Jocelyn Hagen (2018)